

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Korea

DATE DISTR 23 OCT 51

SUBJECT Military Activities and Economic Conditions in the East Coast Area

NO. OF PAGES 1

25X1A

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO. June - July 1951

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. 25X1X

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1. In late June 1951 between two and four trains made the trip daily between Ch'ongjin (129-49, 41-47) (EB 6826) and Pokkya-ri (127-16, 38-36) (CT 4955). The trains moved both day and night and were limited to ten or 20 cars in length to minimize damage from air attacks. Four-fifths of the cars were loaded with food, including millet, Indian corn, and sorghum packed in straw bags, all imported from Manchuria. The remaining one-fifth of the cars were loaded with weapons and ammunition, hand-grenades being the item carried in the largest quantity.
2. In late June there were about 70 North Korean navy personnel guarding the coast in the vicinity of Nangsong-ni (127-32, 39-08) (CU 7332). Mines set to explode under the pressure of a man's weight were buried in the area. They were packed in wooden boxes to make detection by magnetic means impossible. Three Soviet advisers assigned to the area were frequently observed inspecting the coastal area both day and night in late June.
3. There were no mines along the coast in the Myongch'on (129-28, 41-12) (EA 3961) area in mid-July, and no troops were stationed in the vicinity. A small North Korean army signal unit was in Musudan (129-43, 40-50) (EA 6020), but only members of the local self-security corps units patrolled the coast line, men carrying out the task at night and women members during the day. Their principal duty was to ring a warning bell when aircraft were discovered.
4. In mid-July economic conditions in the Myongch'on area were poor, with few shops open, no fishing permitted, only a few specialized factories operating, and virtually no opportunity for the employment of free labor as opposed to those conscripted in various works. These conditions and the numerous compulsory contributions and donations to the North Korean government and various agencies for the war effort, which the average citizen's income could not cover, made the maintenance of even a minimum standard of living extremely difficult. Many residents attempted to escape to United Nations territory to better their conditions despite Communist propaganda attacking United Nations treatment of Koreans, including the statement that Americans required Koreans to wash before they would shake hands and then washed their own hands afterwards.

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Class. Changed To:	TS S C
Date:	25 OCT 78
By:	25 OCT 78